

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

**1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)** A method for cardiovascular disease assessment in an individual, comprising the steps of :

a. ~~detecting-obtaining information regarding~~ the presence or absence of ~~a fragment encoding a polymorphic alpha-2C (α<sub>2C</sub>DEL322-325)~~ a deletion of amino acids 322-355 in an alpha-2C adrenergic receptor (α<sub>2C</sub>DEL322-325) in a sample from an individual; ~~and~~

b. ~~detecting-obtaining information regarding~~ the presence or absence of ~~a fragment encoding a polymorphic~~ an arginine at position 389 of a beta-1 adrenergic receptor (β<sub>1</sub>Arg389) in a sample from the individual-; and

c. if both α<sub>2C</sub>DEL322-325 is present and β<sub>1</sub>Arg389 is present, assessing that the individual is at increased risk for cardiovascular disease.

**2. (ORIGINAL)** The method according to claim 1, wherein the sample comprises blood sample, body fluid, tissue sample, or combinations thereof.

**3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)** The method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~fragment~~ comprises DNA, RNA, protein, or combinations thereof information is obtained from a nucleic acid assay or a protein assay.

**4. (ORIGINAL)** The method according to claim 1, wherein the cardiovascular disease comprises stroke, vascular embolism, vascular thrombosis, heart failure, cardiac arrhythmias, myocardial infarction, myocardial ischemia, angina, hypertension, hypotension, shock, sudden cardiac death, or combinations thereof.

**5. (ORIGINAL)** The method according to claim 4, wherein the cardiovascular disease is heart failure.

**6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED)** ~~A method for delaying development of cardiovascular disease in an individual, comprising the steps of :-~~

- ~~a. detecting the presence or absence of a fragment encoding a polymorphic alpha-2C (a<sub>2C</sub>DEL322-325) adrenergic receptor in a sample from an individual;~~
- ~~b. detecting the presence or absence of a fragment encoding a polymorphic beta-1 adrenergic receptor (Arg389) in a sample from the individual; and c. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of selecting a therapy regimen for the individual based on the presence or absence of of both  $\alpha_{2C}$ DEL322-325 and  $\beta_1$ Arg389, wherein the therapy regimen delays development of cardiovascular disease in the individual.~~

7. (CANCEL)

8. (CANCEL)

9. (CANCEL)

10. (CANCEL)

11. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 6, wherein the therapy regimen comprises administration of agonists and/or antagonists of  $\alpha_{2C}$ DEL322-325 and  $\beta_1$ Arg389.

12. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 6, wherein the therapy regimen comprises life- style changes.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A method for delaying progression or early death associated with cardiovascular disease in an individual, comprising the steps of : a. detecting the presence or absence of a fragment encoding a polymorphic alpha-2C (a<sub>2C</sub>DEL322-325) adrenergic receptor in a sample from an individual; b. detecting the presence or absence of a fragment encoding a polymorphic beta-1 adrenergic receptor (Arg389) in a sample from the individual ; and c. selecting a therapy regimen for the individual based on the presence or absence of a<sub>2C</sub>DEL322-325 and  $\beta_1$ Arg389~~ The method of claim 6, wherein progression or early death associated with the cardiovascular disease is delayed.

14. (CANCEL)

15. (CANCEL)

16. (CANCEL)

17. (CANCEL)

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A method of genetic counseling for cardiovascular disease in an individual, comprising the steps of: a. detecting the presence or absence of a fragment encoding a polymorphic alpha-2C ( $\alpha_2C$ DEL322-325) adrenergic receptor in a sample from an individual; b. detecting the presence or absence of a fragment encoding a polymorphic beta-1 adrenergic receptor (Arg389) in a sample from the individual; and c. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of counseling the individual regarding the potential risk of developing a cardiovascular disease based on the presence or absence of~~ of both  $\alpha_2C$ DEL322-325 and  $\beta_1$ Arg389.

19. (CANCEL)

20. (CANCEL)

21. (CANCEL)

22. (CANCEL)

23. (CANCEL)